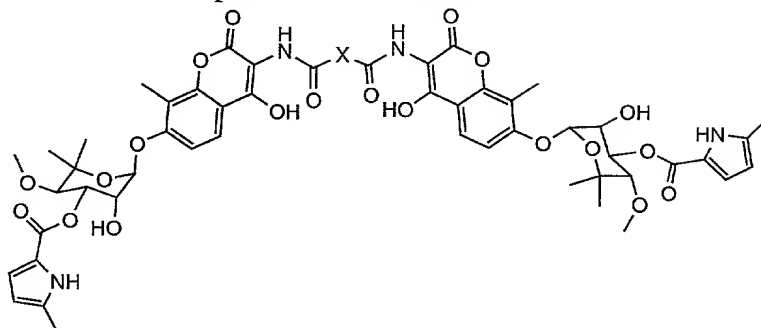


WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A compound of the formula I:



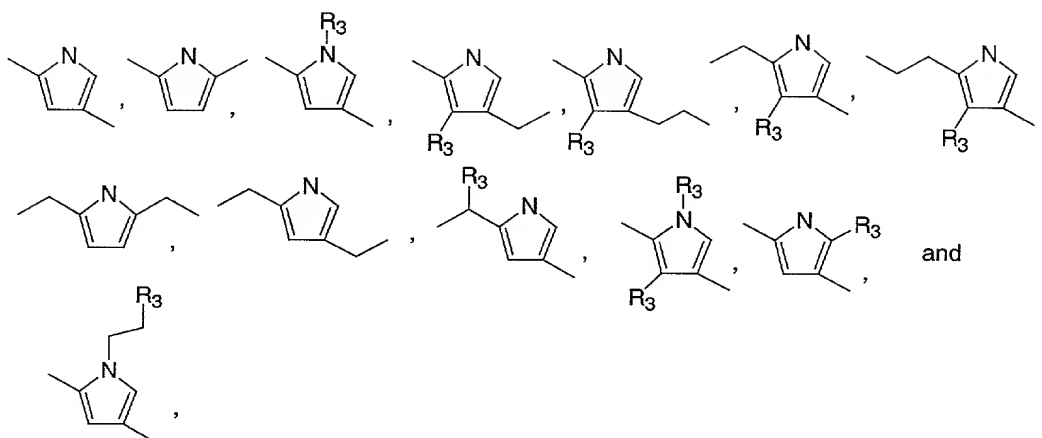
I

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof,  
wherein X is a linking group containing from about 1 to about 54 atoms that connects  
the two halves of the molecule.

2. The compound according to Claim 1, wherein X is selected  
from the group consisting of straight, branched and cyclic alkyl, aryl, diaryl,  
heteroaryl, said alkyl, aryl, diaryl and heteroaryl optionally substituted with 1-3 groups  
of C<sub>1</sub>-6 alkyl or NH<sub>2</sub>, alkyl with 1-3 heteroatoms in the chain, and a combination of  
alkyl, aryl and/or heteroaryl substituents.

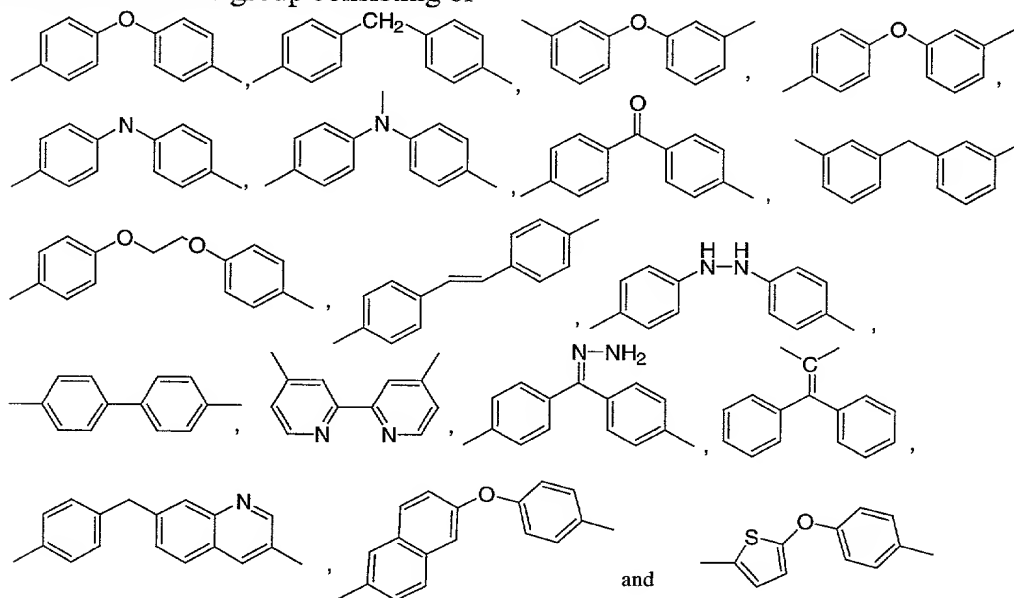
3. The compound according to Claim 1, wherein X is selected  
from the group consisting of pyrrole, pyridine, furan, indole, benzofuran,  
dibenzofuran, thiophene, straight chain alkyl, cycloalkyl, phenyl, diaryl and  
combinations thereof.

4. The compound according to Claim 3, wherein the pyrrolyl  
moiety is selected from the group consisting of

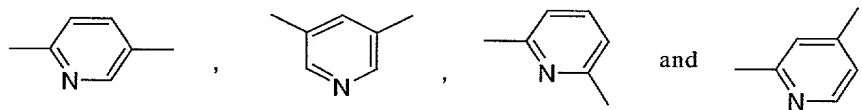


wherein  $R_3$  is H or  $CH_3$ .

5. The compound according to Claim 3, wherein the diaryl moiety is selected from the group consisting of

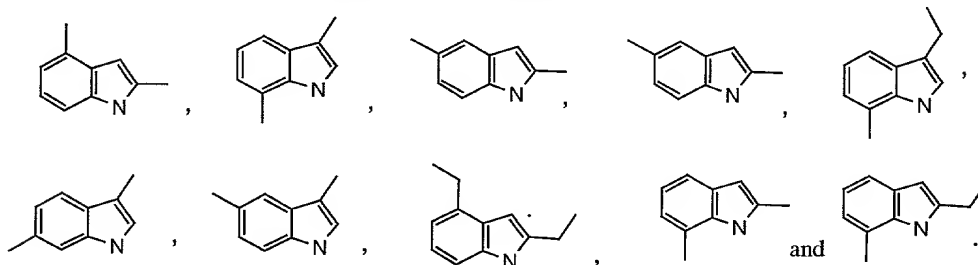


6. The compound according to Claim 3, wherein the pyridinyl moiety is selected from the group consisting of

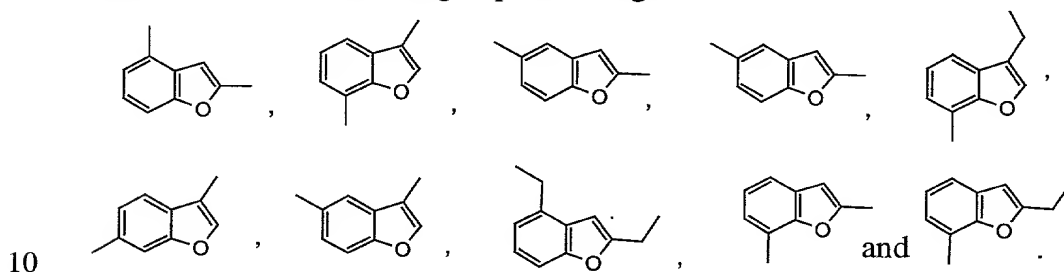


7. The compound according to Claim 3, wherein X is a straight chain alkyl moiety contains between one and eighteen carbons.

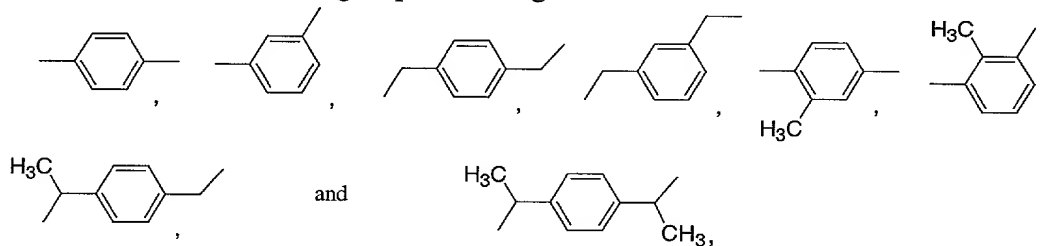
5 8. The compound according to Claim 3, wherein the indolyl moiety is selected from the group consisting of



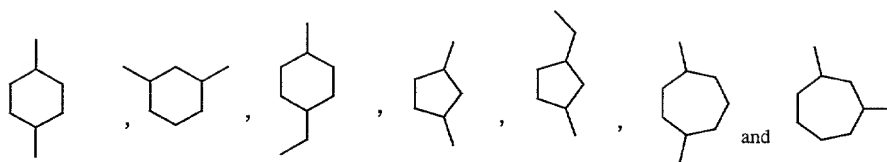
9. The compound according to Claim 3, wherein the benzofuranyl moiety is selected from the group consisting of



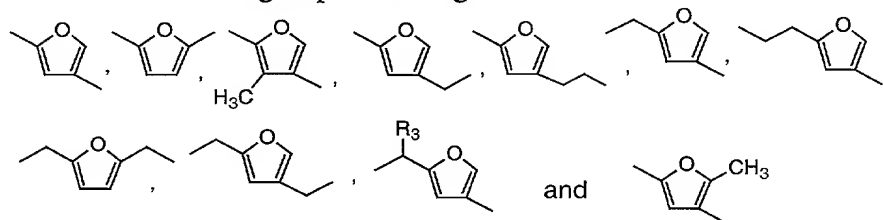
10. The compound according to Claim 3, wherein the phenyl moiety is selected from the group consisting of



11. The compound according to Claim 3, wherein the cycloalkyl moiety is selected from the group consisting of

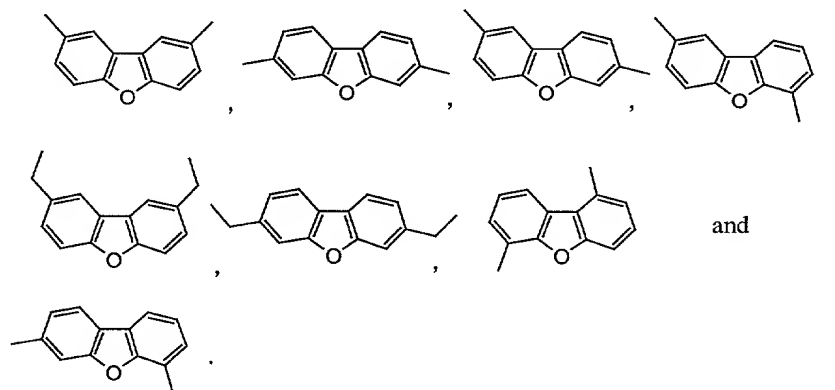


12. The compound according to Claim 3, wherein the furanyl moiety is selected from the group consisting of



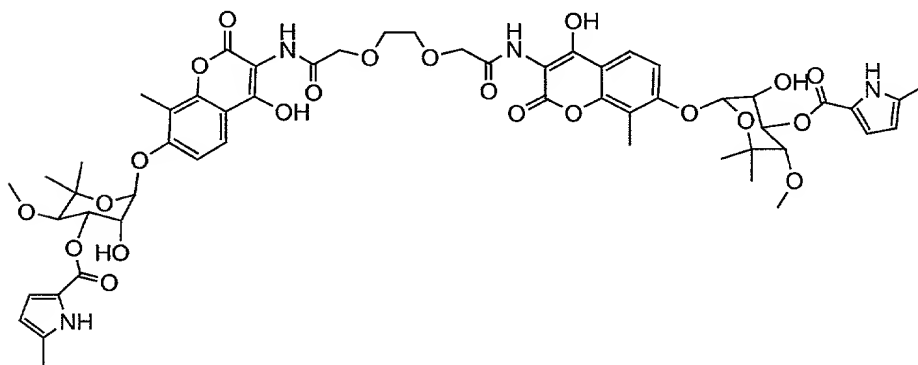
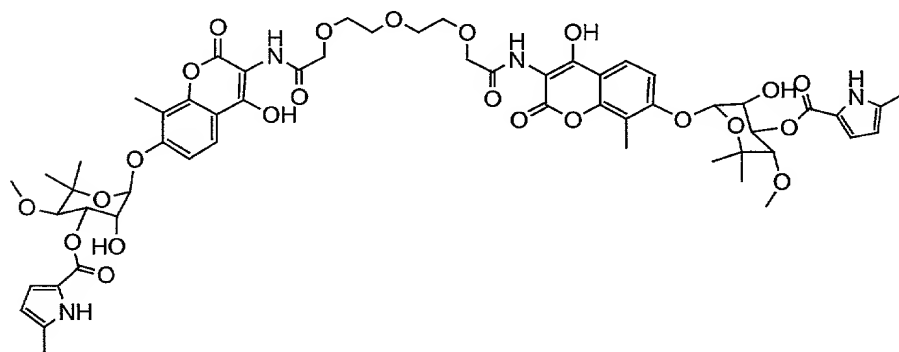
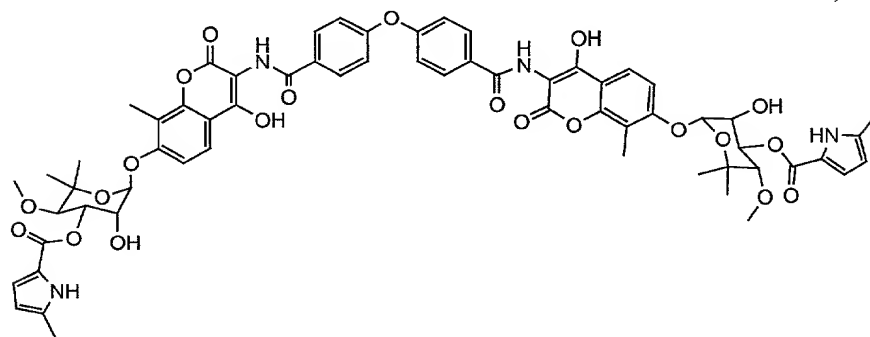
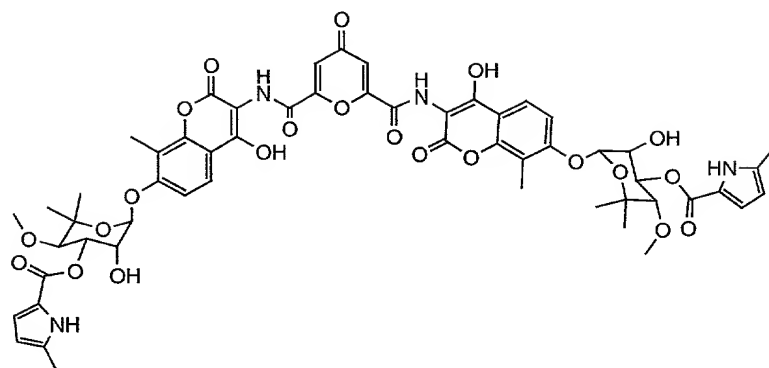
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13. The compound according to Claim 3, wherein the dibenzofuranyl moiety is selected from the group consisting of

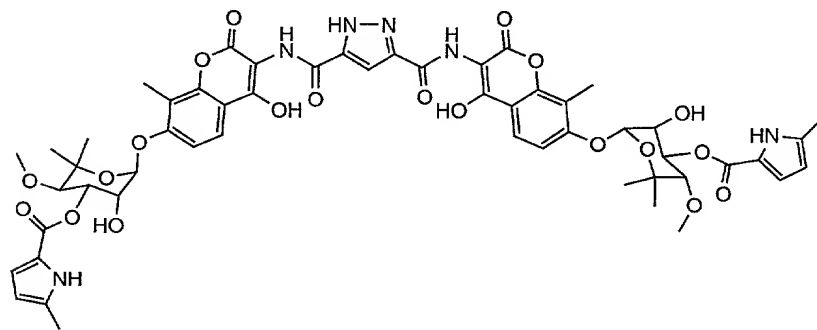
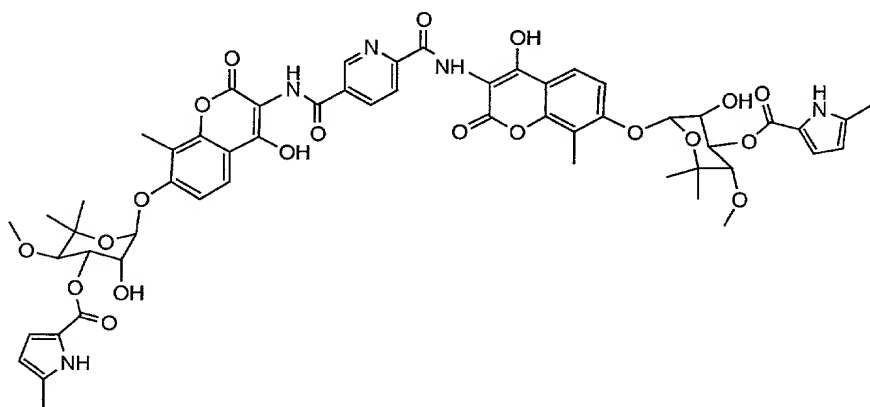
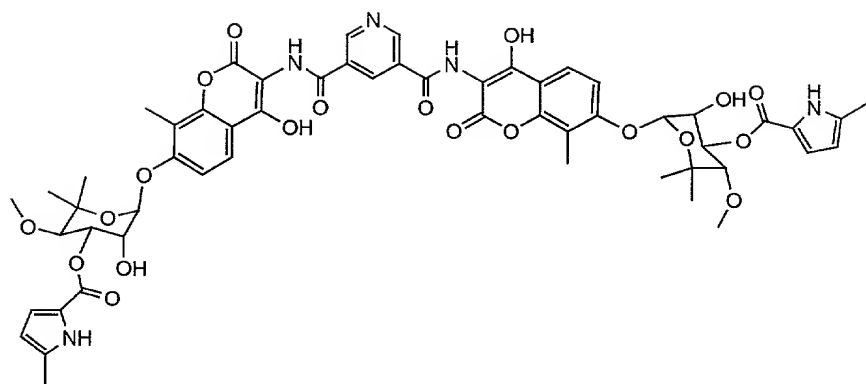


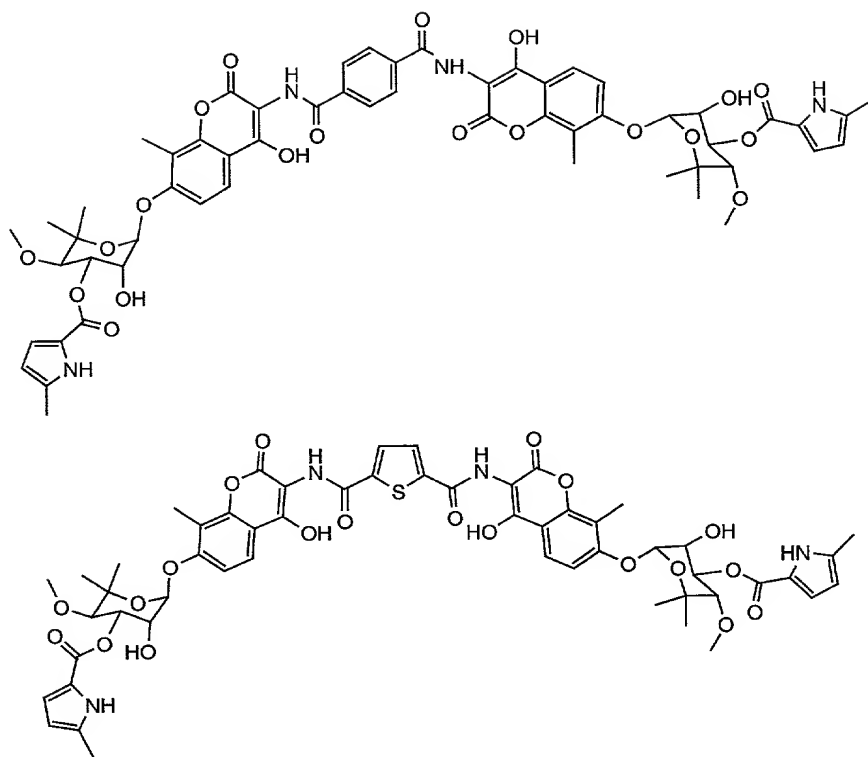
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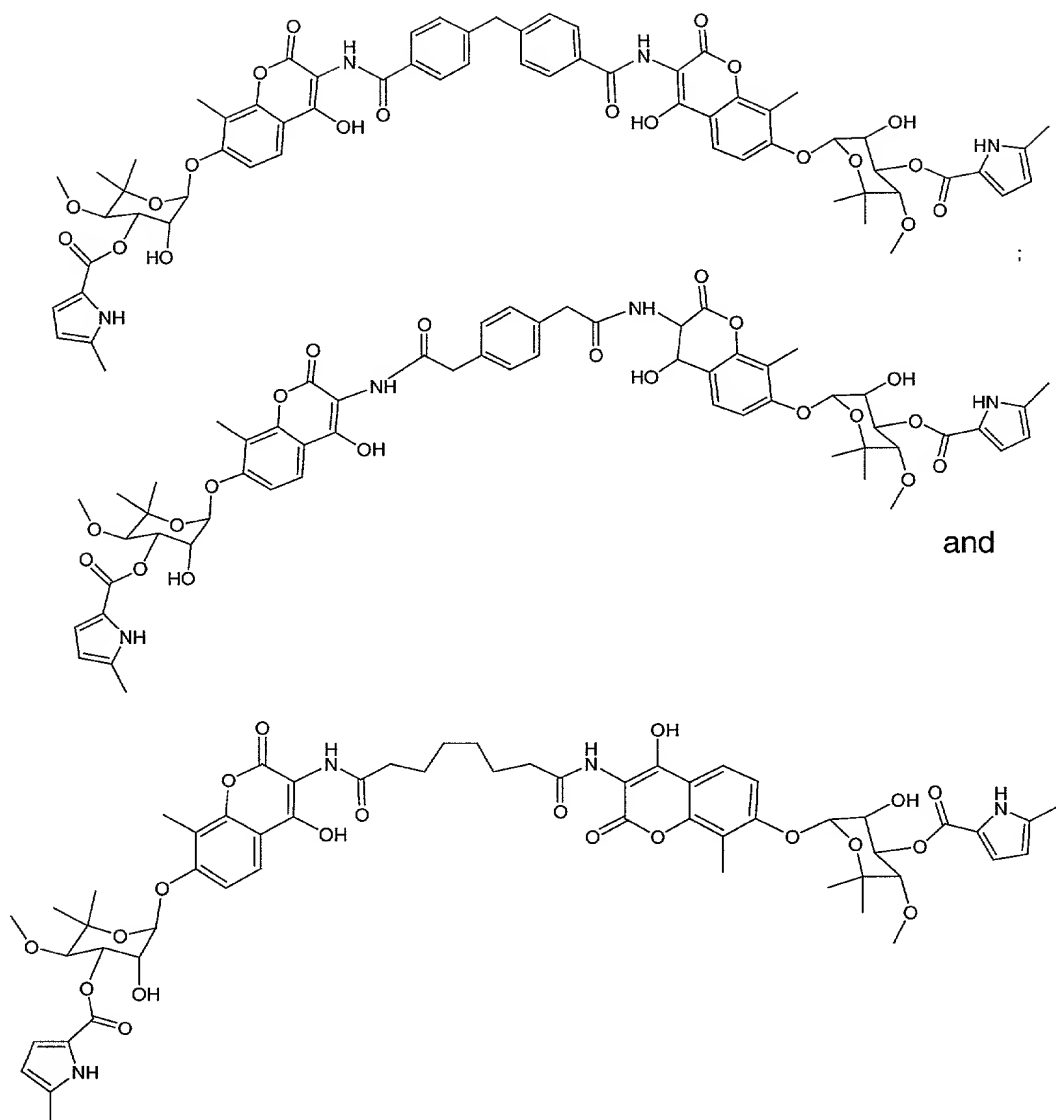
14. A compound selected from the group consisting of



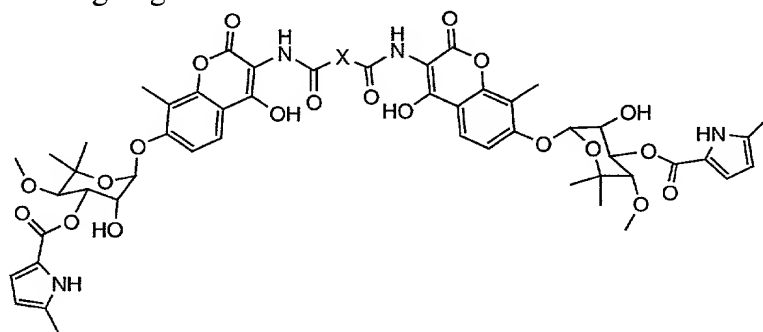
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15. A method of chemically dimerizing chimeric proteins utilizing a coumermycin analog of general formula I:



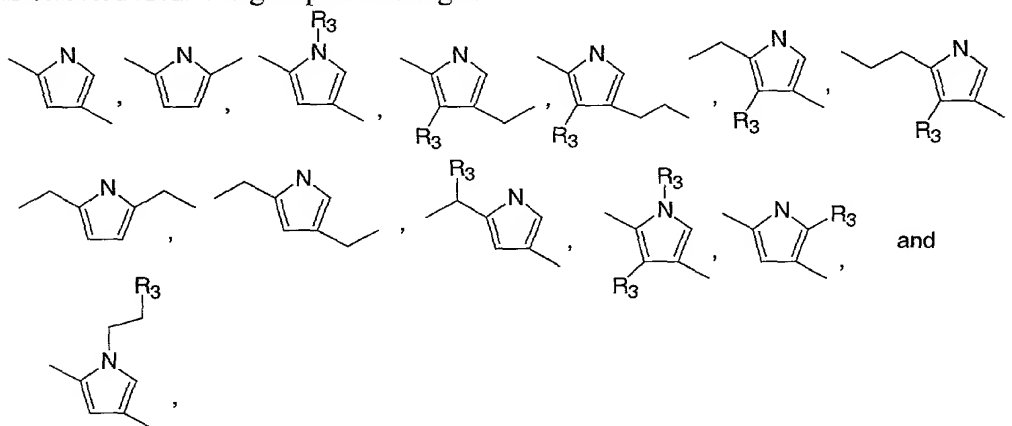


or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof,

- wherein X is a linking group X is selected from the group consisting of straight, branched and cyclic alkyl, aryl, diaryl, heteroaryl, said alkyl, aryl, diaryl and heteroaryl optionally substituted with 1-3 groups of C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl or NH<sub>2</sub>, alkyl with 1-3 heteroatoms in the chain, and a combination of alkyl, aryl and/or heteroaryl substituents.

16. A method according to claim 15 wherein X is selected from the group consisting of pyridine, furan, indole, benzofuran, pyrrole, dibenzofuran, thiophene, straight chain alkyl, cycloalkyl, phenyl, diaryl and combinations thereof.

17. The method according to Claim 16, wherein the pyrrolyl moiety is selected from the group consisting of

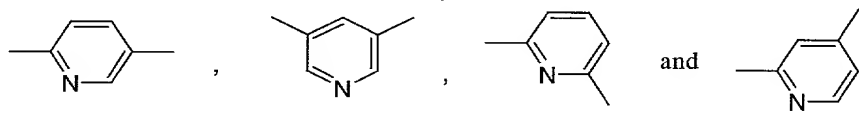


wherein R<sub>3</sub> is H or CH<sub>3</sub>.

18. The method according to Claim 16, wherein the diaryl moiety is selected from the group consisting of

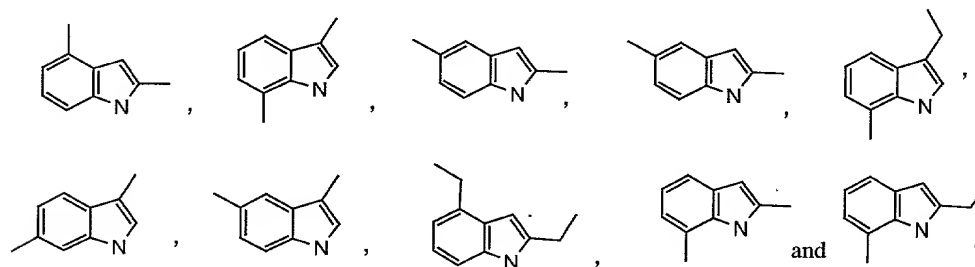


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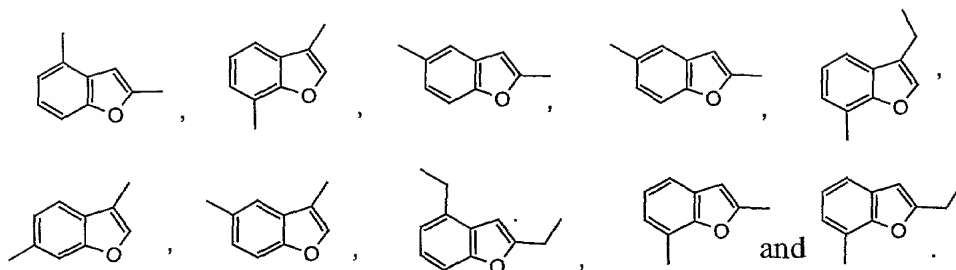


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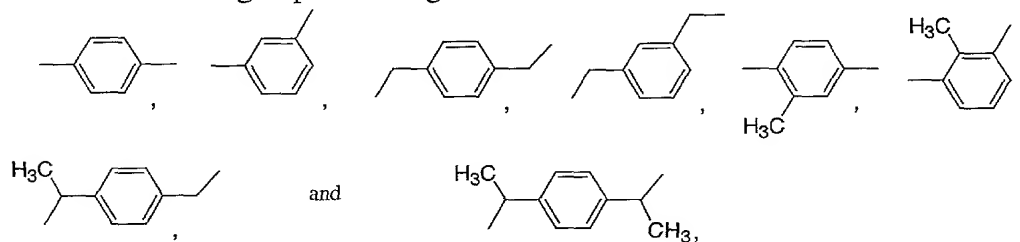
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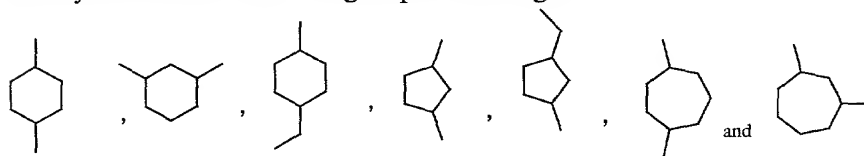


23. The method according to Claim 16, wherein the phenyl moiety is selected from the group consisting of



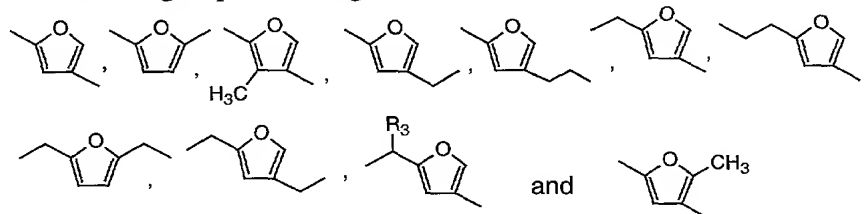
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24. The method according to Claim 16, wherein the cycloalkyl moiety is selected from the group consisting of



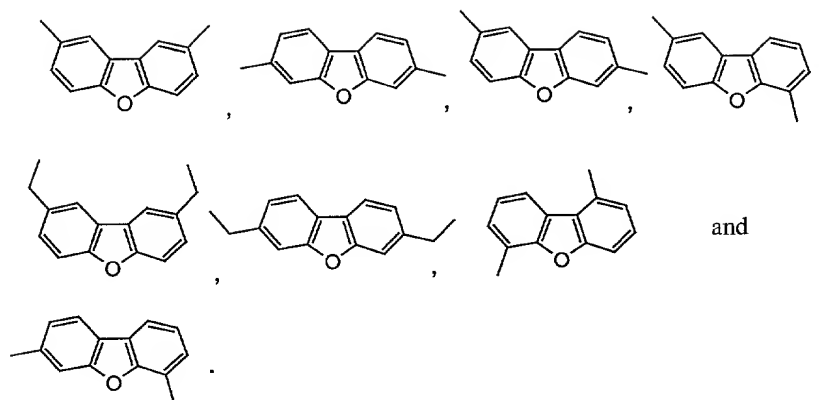
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25. The method according to Claim 16, wherein the furanyl moiety is selected from the group consisting of



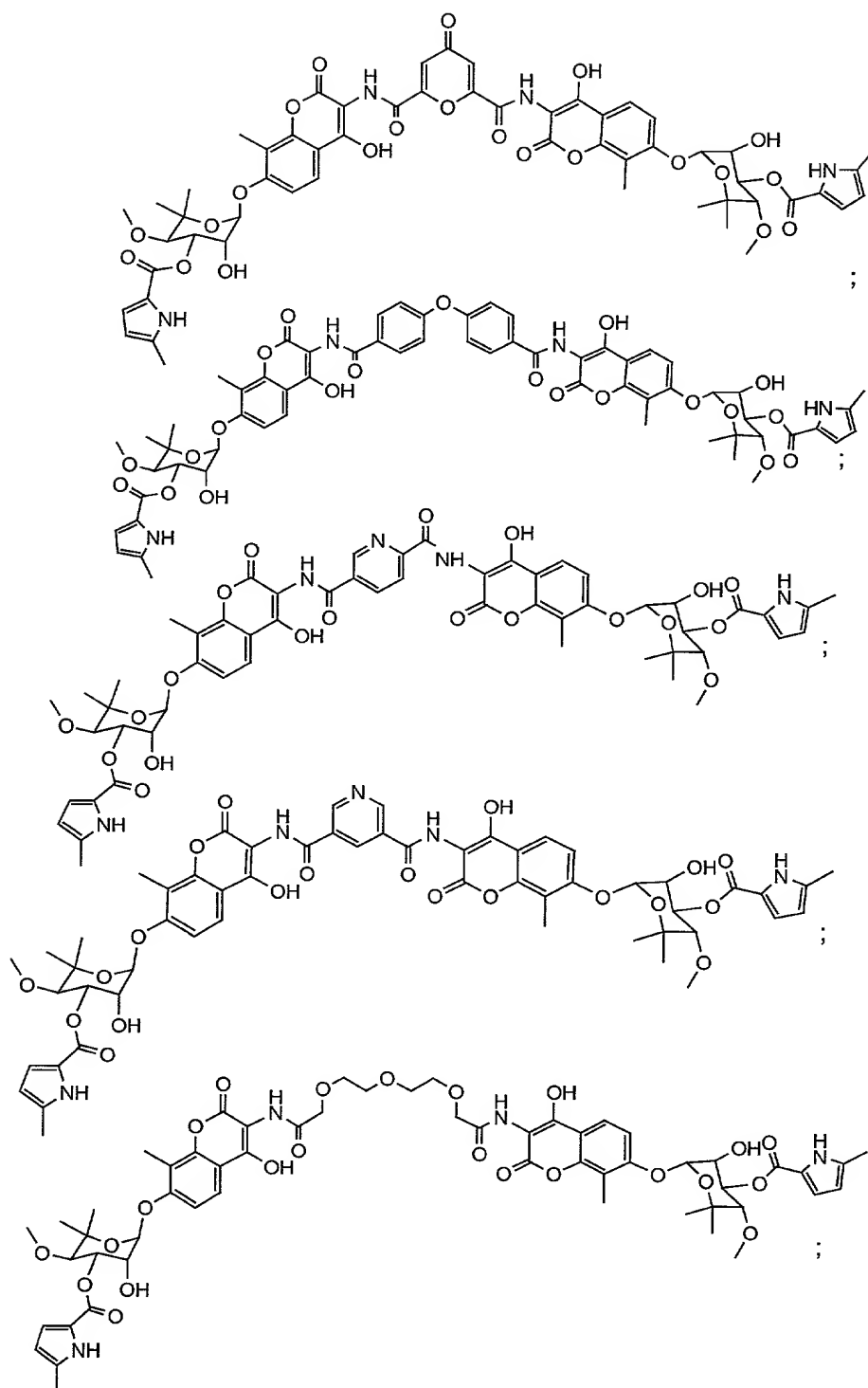
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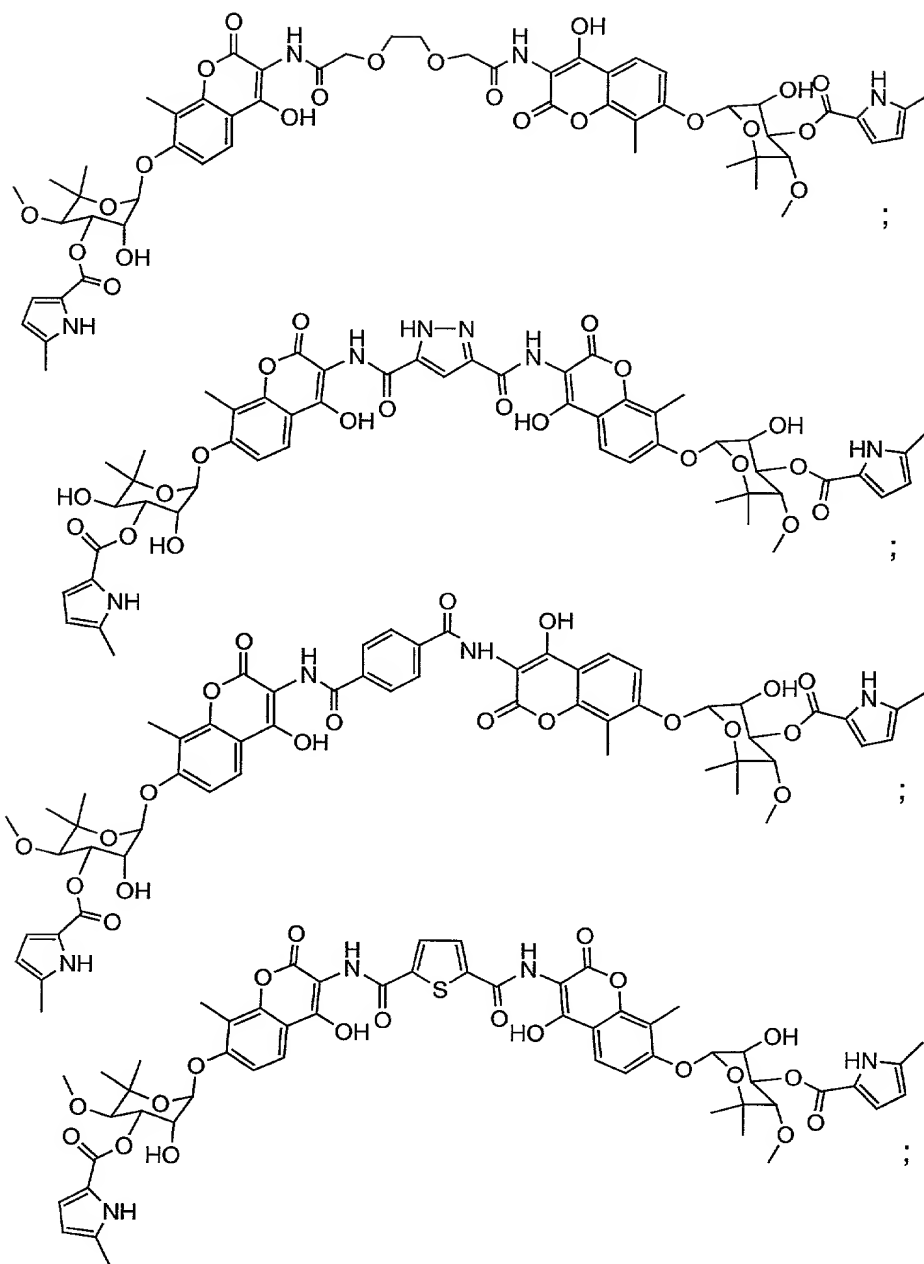
26. The method according to Claim 16, wherein the dibenzofuranyl moiety is selected from the group consisting of

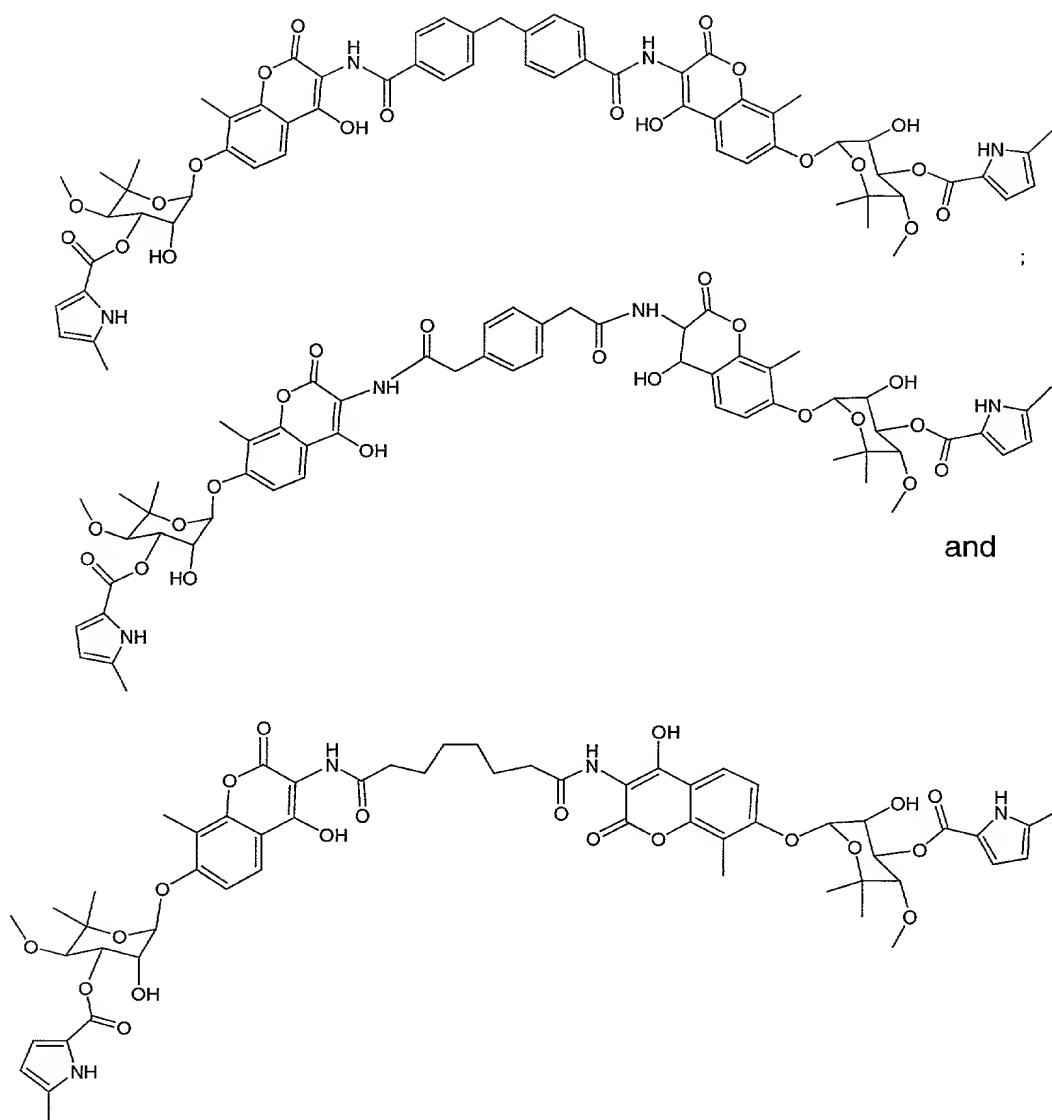


27. A coumermycin analog suitable for use as a chemical dimerizer of chimeric proteins, wherein the analog is selected from the group consisting of

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28. A composition useful for promoting the dimerization of  
 chimeric signaling, intracellular proteins comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable  
 carrier and a compound of formula I.